

**REMARKS
TO THE
FACULTY
SOUTHWEST SECONDARY SCHOOL
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

DATE UNKNOWN – IN THE LATE SPRING OF 1990

**BY
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SOUTHWEST SEC. SCHOOL
MOPL. MINN

19/14

In the past - when this school
has played the role of program host to
my producers Kathy Sulzer and Kate
Tapley - and me" as we have
put together a 1 hour prime time
TV Special on Health that will be
one of a five part series to be
shown on NBC in the fall.

This show
adolescents.
Just back then
will be different

This need
to school where
we followed
part 2 of
eth of
show
This one

HAD

AT THE OUTSET WE ~~WE~~ TO DISABUSE OURSELVES OF SOME
COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS.

FIRST, WE ~~WE~~ PUT ASIDE THE NOTION THAT ADOLESCENCE IS
A TIME OF NATURAL GOOD HEALTH, A TIME WHEN CHILDREN
BLOSSOM BEAUTIFULLY INTO YOUNG ADULTS, A TIME OF HIGH
ENERGY AND WELL-BEING.

YOU MAY NOT KNOW IT, BUT

**[REDACTED] ADOLESCENTS ARE THE ONE GROUP OF AMERICAN
SOCIETY WHOSE HEALTH HAS NOT SHOWN IMPROVEMENT OVER
THE LAST 70 YEARS.**

**OUR CHALLENGE TODAY STEMS FROM THE NATURE OF THE
ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROBLEMS.**

**DO
NO LONGER INFECTIOUS OR OTHER "PHYSICAL DISEASES"
LINGERING OUT THERE TO PREY UPON UNSUSPECTING AND
INNOCENT VICTIMS, THE THREATS TO ADOLESCENT HEALTH LIE
IN THE REALM OF BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS.**

IT IS WHAT ADOLESCENTS CHOOSE TO DO THAT BRINGS THEM
TO THE HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT THEY SUFFER. ➡

THESE ARE ALL TOO FAMILIAR:

DRINKING, SMOKING, AIDS, PREGNANCY, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED
DISEASES, VIOLENCE, [REDACTED]

TRUE, SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS MAY TECHNICALLY OR
LEGALLY HAVE A PHYSICAL OR BIOLOGICAL BASIS AND HENCE
BE TERMED A DISEASE, BUT THEIR DANGER LIES IN THEIR LINK
WITH ADOLESCENT BEHAVIOR.

SOME OF

THE PROBLEMS OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH OFTEN CAN BE TRACED

TO THE GROWING GAP BETWEEN ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS IN

COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING. *WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT THAT*

ADOLESCENTS SEEM TO THINK DIFFERENTLY.

THEY SEEM TO BE INHERENT RISK-TAKERS.

ALL EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, THEY HAVE A SENSE THAT

THEY ARE IMMORTAL.

SO THEY HAVE AN SEEMINGLY INSTINCTIVE RESPONSE TO TUNE

OUT ANY ADMONITION THAT BEGINS WITH "DON'T".

ADOLESCENT

~~THEY ARE GENERALLY A PART OF OTHER~~

~~ENVIRONMENT. THEY ARE IN A STATE OF MIXTURE OF~~

INDULGENCE AND NEGLECT.

~~SOCIETY CRITICIZES ADOLESCENTS FOR HAVING NO~~

~~CONSCIENCE~~, BUT THEN SOCIETY HAS NOT CONVEYED TO
THEM WHAT IT EXPECTS OF THEM.

THERE ARE MANY CRACKS IN OUR SOCIETY, AND ADOLESCENTS
ARE PRONE TO FALL THROUGH THEM.

ADOLESCENTS ARE CRITICIZED FOR
NOT LIVING UP TO SOCIETY'S
EXPECTATIONS

ADDED TO ALL THESE PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM AN
UNCERTAIN PLACE IN OUR SOCIETY, MOST ADOLESCENTS, AT
ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, SUFFER REAL AND UNIQUE PROBLEMS IN
HEALTH.

However we put the show together
it will be designed to help both
adolescents and their parents. We
hope you like it.

On behalf of Kathy & Kate I want
to thank ~~the~~ Phyllis - the teacher,
the students and their parents.

We love the kids in this school
and they'll always be in our
hearts